

Bill 1132

To Whom It May Concern:

I've just learned that our wonderful state gov't* is about to spend taxpayer dollars for the new stadium in Hartford in support of the ball club being stolen from New Britain. It wasn't too long ago that this same state gov't built a stadium in New Britain for a ball club. Things get fuzzy here, but I know Bristol lost a feeder team for the Red Sox in the process. Maybe it went to New Britain. I just don't know.

What I have seen over the last decades is a departure from Connecticut's "Land of Steady Habits" persona to an "Uncle Sugar" style of behavior. This would be delightful except that our state has fallen to the bottom of the list where pluses are concerned. Not only have taxes skyrocketed, but our infrastructure is crumbling, and our various pension costs are not being fully funded. People and businesses are leaving our state in droves. This is not good.

Going forward, our state must bring its finances in order and focus on the things it must do before even considering the things it might like to do. Taking taxpayer funds to build a stadium in Hartford falls way short of what we MUST do.

Perhaps we need to learn a lesson from Greece. They recently elected a new leader on his promise to make things better for the people, but he lacked a plan. He promised relief from the restraints that had been imposed on Greece in return for certain financial bailouts. Then he discovered that he couldn't deliver on his promises. Eventually, the bill must be paid.

Our state is in a similar position. Perhaps it's not that bad. I don't really know. Billions of dollars of unfunded retirement benefits will not vanish. These promises have been made, and pretty much have to be paid.

If the need or desire for this latest benefit for our capitol city has to be funded, turn to Hartford itself and the people and businesses located

there. YOU started it! Don't reach into my pocket to fund it, make it happen via the people who will benefit or shut it down.

The essential, bottom line for our state is to get our finances in order.

We have amazing resources to focus on and coordinate with. Think of all the top tier colleges and universities in our state and work with them.

Think of the businesses in our state. We are still the home of some giants in the insurance business. They have been legendary for supplying capital to new endeavors.

Think Pratt and Whitney – United Technologies – and wonder why they are gradually leaving our state.

Once started, I could go on, endlessly. I'll stop here with the hope that I've made my point. Taxpayer funding for a Hartford Stadium is not the way to go. Review how much money you have thrown into the Hartford hole with few, if any, positive results, and STOP NOW!

Be well,

Jb

JOEL WULFF